

Cubao Reformed Baptist Church

Newsletter for June

"We should not think of our fellowship with other Christians as a spiritual luxury, an optional addition to the exercise of private devotion. We should recognize rather that such fellowship is a spiritual necessity; for God has made us in such a way that our fellowship with himself is fed by our fellowship with fellow Christians, and requires to be so fed constantly for its own deepening and enrichment." [J.I. Packer]

CHURCH RETREAT

There is so much to thank God for during the month of May. First, we conducted our church retreat May 1-2 at a Resort in Calamba, Laguna.

Calamba can be called the capital of the "Hot Springs" of the Philippines. We enjoyed God's beautiful creation, but more than that was the enjoyment of being so blessed spiritually.



The preaching and workshops on "Biblical Fellowship" given by Pastors Mon and Ismael were well appreciated by the members. A subject we needed again to study in our church.



We also enjoyed singing some new hymns introduced by Matt and Gerlie. Not to mention the food prepared by some of our Cooks.. We Filipinos love food.

We were so blessed by the hard work of two of our deacons in making this retreat worthwhile and orderly. Some said that they want another retreat later this year. During our Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day, Joel, one of our deacons, said that he still felt the great effect that the retreat had had on him.

One of the blessings during the camp was the testimonies of two of our young people, children of members, that the retreat to them was a wake up call. There were tears from some members as they heard these young people profess faith in Christ. Praise the Lord!

Second, was the just concluded Daily Vacation Bible School for children. This was the second batch held at our Livelihood Training Center in Fairview, Quezon City

from the 11th – 15th. An average of 80 children attended. We thank the Lord for the untiring commitment of some of our members and volunteers. May the seed of God's word sown in the hearts of these children bear fruit in God's own time.

Third, Joseph and Theresa were finally married in a civil wedding last April 28. *The following is the report by Matthew Gamston:*

"We're outside City Hall waiting for the Judge. Joseph and Teresa are smiling and looking forward to the wedding. It's taken us years to get the paperwork but finally they can now officially be married. 6 years ago Joseph was sniffing glue on the streets in Cubao. It's been a rough journey with many ups and downs but God has really worked in his life and we're hoping that in the near future he'll be baptized.

The brief 15 min ceremony almost descends into farce as the judge conducts the procedures and vows in English. Joseph makes a decent attempt to repeat what is said but Teresa hardly gets a word right before announcing loudly that she didn't understand anything she said. I think at one point the judge said 'accept' and Teresa repeated 'and sex.' We were in tears by the end of it.

Afterwards it was back to the church where Pastor Ismael gave a 15 min message on "Loving God, the secret of a successful Marriage" followed by food and pictures. The road ahead won't be easy for Joseph and Teresa but we really have so much to thank God for".



Joseph, Teresa and son on their Wedding Day



During Sessions

Grace Ministerial Academy (GMA)

At the height of typhoon "Emong" in Naga City, 20 pastors gathered for a pastors' conference. Around 60 pastors were expected to come but were hindered by the bad



NAGA Conference

weather. In spite of the typhoon, the pastors who attended were so enthusiastic to hear Pastor Noel Espinosa's lectures on the Reformed Faith with the title, "Reformation, then and now". Ptr. Noel's assessment was very positive and encouraging. In fact, he recommends that the conference be held annually.

The Lord willing, we are now seeking to have the classes at GMA to be simultaneously viewed at Naga and San Pablo Cities by streaming video. Pastor Ellis is seeking advice on this while in England enquiring how it could be best be done. This will really make the training of pastors in far places accessible. It will also further the work of reformation.

A new student from Myanmar arrived last month. His name is Lian Hau Mang, brother of Dal, a graduating student. Please pray that he would be able to adjust to his studies at GMA. He needs to develop his English proficiency.

Last May 15, we held a 'Pastors Fraternal'. This blessed fellowship was attended by 31 pastors from Reformed Baptist churches. Pastor Joey Sarmiento of Trinity Reformed Bible Church gave a very challenging lecture on the recently conducted survey of how many evangelical churches there are all over the Philippines. It was very interesting to hear that the



majority of the Philippines' population are young people. It resulted in the pastors taking serious notice on how to reach out to the youth of our churches and communities.

Christian Compassion Ministry (CCM)

We give thanks to the Lord for the Educational Assistance Program (EAP) Youth Camp. There were 99 teens who attended the 3 day Camp. Although they had to return to Cubao during the 2nd day due to a typhoon, they continued their program and activities at the church building.

They were greatly encouraged by the testimony of one young person who



professed to have understood the Gospel very well. His name is Robert. Please pray for him that he will truly be trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. Please also

pray that many young people, from the community that we serve, will be converted.

In seeking to follow up on these young people, the Lord willing, they will hold a "General Assembly" on May 21 at CRBC. Then we hope to conduct a 'Youth Leadership Seminar' May 27 to 29.

Five of our EAP parents finished their basic sewing (dressmaking and tailoring) course. To be able to get government accreditation they will have to take and pass a government examination. Please pray that they will be able to pass this exam and be able to find work.

The City Health Office will conduct a health class for the parents in the community on May 22nd, 29th and June 5th. The topics include: environmental sanitation, personal hygiene, communicable diseases in slums, and ways to prevent such.

The CCM teenagers from the Homes spent an overnight fellowship at View Port Resort, Carmona. Pastor Jorge Gumop-gas gave three messages on the common temptations that teenagers face. Please pray that these young people, some of whom have been accustomed to 'Street Life', will be found living morally upright lives by the grace of God.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. We covet your prayers for the young people in our church. First, for children of our members that they may come to faith in Christ. It is encouraging that there are at least three who are professing to be believers now. Secondly, for the teenagers in our CCM Homes who regularly attend the church. Third, for the young people that CCM are reaching in our community. We long so much for conversions among these young people. May they come to true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Lord willing GMA class will open on June 16. Please pray for the enrollment for this school year. We are also seeking some new tutors for the Academy.
3. On May 28th to 31st Pastor Ismael and Pastor Mon plan to visit Baguio City to assist our sister church, Baguio Reformed Baptist Church, in recognizing a pastor for their church. There are two leading men in this church, namely, Ike Camacho and Sam Corpuz. Sam is working full-time and is practically out during the week. Ike is a graduate of GMA and formerly a pastor. Please pray for this church that they may be given wisdom in calling a pastor to lead them. Pray also for the messages that Pastor Ismael and Pastor Mon will deliver.
4. On June 6th, the Lord willing, the REBAP-Luzon Association of Churches will hold a Deacons' Seminar. Pastor Mon will give a message on the relationship of elders and deacons while Deacon Ike Tolentino of Grace Baptist Church, Los Baños will give a workshop on the responsibilities of deacons. Please pray for a meaningful and fruitful seminar.
5. Please continue to uphold in your prayers Pastor Ellis and Ate Necy who are currently in England visiting and speaking to churches. They will be home, the Lord willing, June 18th. Please pray that God will sustain them with strength both spiritually and physically.

